

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

NA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

S/S-0 - MR. WRIGHT

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R 110104Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
OCTOBER 10, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. AT THE PENTAGON THIS MORNING, U.S. OFFICIALS
SAID THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONDUCTING RESUPPLY OPERATIONS TO
BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIA. A TWO-PART QUESTION ON THAT. FIRST,
WHAT IS YOUR REACTION. AND SECOND, DOES THIS FIT WITH THE
DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITY WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE
GAVE THE OTHER NIGHT AT THE PACEM IN TERRIS CONFERENCE?

A. WE HAVE HAD SOME INDICATIONS THAT I COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC
ABOUT, SINCE THE INDICATIONS ARE NOT SPECIFIC, THAT THE
SOVIET UNION MAY BE ATTEMPTING THIS KIND OF EFFORT. IF THIS
TURNS OUT TO BE A MASSIVE AIRLIFT, IT WOULD TEND TO PUT A
NEW-FACE ON THE SITUATION. BUT I AM NOT IN A POSATION TO
CONFIRM THAT ANY OF THIS IS IN FACT TAKING PLACE AT THIS
TIME.

Q. THE SECOND PART OF THAT QUESTION -- HOW THIS FITS IN
WITH THE DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO, BY A STATEMENT HERE, MAKE A
CHARGE OF SOMETHING THAT IS AT LEAST AS OF NOW PRESENTLY
UNCONFIRMED -- THIS IS WHY I HAVE USED THE WORD "INDICA-
TIONS". AND THE SENTENCE THAT YOU REFERRED TO IN THE
SECRETARY'S SPEECH -- YES, OF COURSE IT STANDS. AND IT
STANDS IN THAT SENSE. BUT I DO WANT TO PUT SOME EMPHASIS,
AGAIN, ON THE VERY INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS AND
EFFORTS THAT ARE UNDER WAY BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE
CAPITALS THAT INCLUDE THE SOVIET UNION, AS INDEED WITH A
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NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, BOTH THOSE INVOLVED IN THE
CONFLICT AND OTHERS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE AREA. THAT,
OF COURSE, IS COMPLEMENTARY WITH THE CONTACTS AND DIS-
CUSSIONS THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS
IS HAVING WITH THE PARTIES REPRESENTED ON THE SECURITY
COUNCIL.

Q. UP UNTIL NOW, IN THE EXCHANGES THE UNITED STATES HAS
HAD WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WAS THERE ANY AGREEMENT ON ANY
SPECIFIC FORM OF RESTRAINT OR ON THE NON-SUPPLY OR NON-
EXPANSION OF SUPPLIES TO THE COMBATANTS?

A. I WON'T BE IN A POSITION TO GO INTO THE COMPLETE CON-

TENT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WE HAVE OURSELVES REPEATEDLY AND CONTINUE TO URGE RESTRAINT. WE HOPE THAT ALL OF THE OTHERS WITH INFLUENCE IN THE AREA WOULD DO THE SAME THING. THAT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR HERE IN BRIEFINGS. IT WAS MADE CLEAR IN THE STATEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES MADE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. ONE CAN CONTRAST WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS SAID PUBLICLY IN THIS REGARD WITH THAT SAID BY THE SOVIET UNION IN ITS MESSAGES PUBLICLY DIRECTED TOWARDS THE ARAB STATES. BUT LET ME SAY THAT WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO IS TO CRYSTALLIZE A CONSENSUS AMONG THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, AND THE OTHER NATIONS WITH INTEREST IN THE AREA, A CONSENSUS THAT WILL BRING A STOP TO THE FIGHTING, RETURN A NON-VIOLENT ATMOSPHERE TO THE AREA, AND A MEANS TO BEGIN A DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATING PROCESS, LOOKING TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUES. AND WE ARE LESS INTERESTED IN THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT WE ARE CALLED UPON TO MAKE DAY IN AND DAY OUT AND THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS THAN WE ARE IN THE OUTCOME. WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS AN OUTCOME THAT WILL BRING A HALT TO THE FIGHTING IN THE AREA. AND WHEN AND AS THAT IS ACHIEVED, THE RECORD OF U.S. EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD CAN BE DISCUSSED MORE OPENLY. BUT IF IT IS GOING TO HAVE ANY EFFECT, BRING ABOUT THE RESULT WE HOPE, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT A GOOD DEAL OF THIS IN THE PRIVATE CHANNEL.

Q. BEFORE THE WAR BROKE OUT IT WAS, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, UNITED STATES POLICY FOR SOME TIME TO KEEP A VIEW ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LEVEL OF EQUIPMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, IN ISRAEL VIS-A-VIS THE ARAB COUNTRIES, AND WE HAD SAID SEVERAL TIMES PUBLICLY THAT WE DID NOT INTEND TO LET THAT LEVEL FALL TO A DANGEROUS POSITION. IS THAT STILL THE UNITED STATES' POLICY? AND ARE WE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE RESUPPLY?

A. WE ARE IN CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL, BOTH HERE AND IN ISRAEL, AND THAT IS ALL I WANT TO SAY WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION YOU RAISE. THAT IS ALL I WANT TO SAY ON THAT SUBJECT AT THIS TIME.

Q. CAN YOU SAY IF THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED AT THIS TIME ABOUT THE REPORTS OF WIDENING INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR --THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY IRAQ ABOUT THE USE OF ITS AIR-FORCE, THE REPORTS THAT JORDAN IS MOBILIZING ITS FORCES, ITS RESERVES AND OTHER REPORTS INDICATING WIDENING ACTIVITY BY THE ARAB NATIONS.

A. WELL, I CAN'T AT THE ONE TIME SAY THAT WE ARE WORKING TO FIND A MEANS TO BRING THE FIGHTING TO AN END AND PROFESS NO CONCERN ABOUT ANY INVOLVEMENT THAT EXPANDS THE NATURE OF THE WAR.

Q. YOU ARE NOT ANY BETTER ABLE TO ANTICIPATE WHEN A DECISIVE STAGE MIGHT BE REACHED?

A. NO. AND INDEED, AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL SAID OFFICIALLY YESTERDAY, THAT IT EXPECTED THAT THE WAR WOULD -- I AM NOT SURE EXACTLY THE WORDS -- BE LONG OR PROTRACTED. AT LEAST THAT WAS THE SENSE OF WHAT WAS SAID PUBLICLY IN ISRAEL YESTERDAY.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER THE U.S. DECISION ON RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON THE ASSESSMENT OF WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THAT SOVIET AIRLIFT TO EGYPT AND SYRIA?

A. NO COMMENT.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT EITHER TROOPS OR EQUIPMENT ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO EGYPT OR SYRIA FROM OTHER ARAB STATES?
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A. FOR BACKGROUND, THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS IN THAT REGARD, YES.

Q. THERE ARE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT JORDAN HAS MOBILIZED. ASIDE FROM THE ALERT, WHICH WAS SOUNDED THE OTHER DAY, THEY HAVE MOBILIZED THEIR ARMED FORCES. IS THE UNITED STATES CONTEMPLATING OR DOING ANYTHING TO RESTRAIN JORDAN FROM ENTERING THE CONFLICT.

A. NO COMMENT.

Q. THE WHITE HOUSE HIS MORNING USED THE WORD "MEDIATION" -- THE UNITED STATES IS TAKING A ROLE OF MEDIATION. IN THAT SENSE, ARE WE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRYING TO REACH AN AGREED SOLUTION BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVED?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT THE CONVERSATIONS ARE RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE EFFORT IN THE UN. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RESOLVE -- THE RESOLUTION BROUGHT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN. BUT IT IS OUR VIEW THAT THIS WILL REQUIRE CONSULTATIONS OUTSIDE, AND BILATERALLY, OF THE UN, WHILE THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS STILL SEIZED. NOW, IT IS PRETTY CLEAR -- LET ME GO ON BACKGROUND HERE -- THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BECAUSE, AS I HAVE NOTED, IT IS NOT SCHEDULING A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON, IS EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT A CONSENSUS. I MIGHT SAY THAT WHILE WE HAVE BOTH HERE AND IN NEW YORK OUTLINED AT LEAST OUR GENERAL PREFERENCE FOR WHAT WE THINK THE SECURITY COUNCIL OUGHT TO CONCLUDE WITH, THAT WE ARE OPEN TO OTHER IDEAS. BUT THERE REALLY HAS NOT BEEN A COALESCENCE OR A CON-

SENSUS REACHED. INDEED, AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE NO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF AMONG OR FROM ANY OF THE PARTIES, OF MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

Q. ON THAT POINT, CAN YOU TELL US OF THE VOLUME OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN?

A. WELL, BEGINNING SATURDAY LAST, AT LEAST ONCE AND SOMETIMES MORE OFTEN EACH DAY.
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Q. ON THE TELEPHONE?

A. PRINCIPALLY, YES.

Q. WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT AN EFFORT TO CRYSTALLIZE A CONSENSUS, YOU TICKED OFF A COUPLE OF POINTS, ONE OF WHICH WAS, OF COURSE, TO STOP THE FIGHTING. COULD YOU SAY ALONG WHAT LINE?

A. WELL, LET ME TRY IT ON BACKGROUND. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SO THAT IT WOULD NOT RUN THE RISK OF VETO, I SUPPOSE, ON THE BASIS THAT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT WOULD AGREE TO THE TIMING AND THE PLACE OF THE CEASE-FIRE. AND THAT IN TURN RAISES THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION THAT IS A SIMPLE CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION OR A RESOLUTION THAT GOES BEYOND THAT AND TRIES TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATION. AND THAT IS THE DILEMMA AT THE MOMENT.

Q. IF YOU WANT TO FORM A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AREN'T YOU IMPLICITLY AT LEAST AFFECTING THE CONTENT OF 242?

A. WELL, WE HAVE -- I HAVE SAID HERE THAT WE WOULD NOT ENVISION A SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION THAT WOULD IN ANY WAY IMPAIR 242.

Q. IF YOU ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT ESTABLISHING SOME FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS A PEACE SETTLEMENT, AREN'T YOU -- IN EFFECT WOULDN'T SUCH AN ACTION SUPERSEDE 242?

A. OH, NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK WHAT I AM REALLY SAYING IS TO ESTABLISH A WILL TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH 242 COULD STILL BE THE VEHICLE.

Q. IN YOUR REFERENCE TO A DILEMMA, CAN YOU DEVELOP THAT SLIGHTL

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